

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14943 131707Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----042232 131710Z /46
O 131700Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0272

S E C R E T CAIRO 14943

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PGOV EG IS US
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL, JUNE 13

REF: CAIRO 14781

1. FONMIN KAMEL TELEPHONED ME LAST NIGHT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM ALEXANDRIA WHERE SADAT HAD BRIEFED HIM ON OUR TALK OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. KAMEL AND I ARRANGED MEET TODAY FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION. AHMED MAHER WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. POSSIBLE KAMEL/DAYAN MEETING: ALTHOUGH KAMEL WAS CLEARLY NOT ENAMORED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING DIRECT TALKS WITH DAYAN, HE ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S JUDGMENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM SADAT THAT ANY SUCH MEETING WHICH MIGHT BE CALLED BY PRESIDENT CARTER WILL DEPEND ON THE NATURE OF THE ISRAELI RESPONSES TO THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE PUT TO THEM. THESE RESPONSES, HE CONTENDED, SHOULD BE POSITIVE IF THERE IS TO BE SUCH A MEETING. WITHOUT THIS, ANY SUCH DAYAN/KAMEL MEETING WOULD QUICKLY TURN SOUR. SHOULD SUCH A MEETING FAIL, IT WOULD SET BACK THE PEACE PROCESS.

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3. KAMEL ALSO STATED THAT SADAT HAD SAID THE U.S. SHOULD BE PRESENT AT SUCH A MEETING AS A "WITNESS". OTHERWISE THE ISRAELIS ARE CERTAIN TO DISTORT WHAT IS SAID. I TOLD KAMEL THAT SADAT HAD SUGGESTED THE FIRST TWO OR THREE SESSIONS MIGHT BE BETWEEN DAYAN AND KAMEL ALONE AND A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE COULD BE PRESENT AT LATER SES-

SIONS. KAMEL CLAIMED SADAT'S COMMENTS TO HIM HAD SPOKEN ONLY OF SESSIONS AT WHICH THE U.S. WOULD BE PRESENT. HE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT RELISH THE THOUGHT OF ANY PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH DAYAN. HE ALSO DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF AN AL-ARISH VENUE, SAYING THAT HE FOUND IT GALLING AS AN EGYPTIAN NATIONALIST TO GO TO EGYPTIAN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE ISRAELIS. HE HOPED THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER DECIDES TO CALL FOR SUCH A MEETING, IT WILL BE IN WASHINGTON, NEW YORK OR SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE.

4. WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL: KAMEL ALSO INDICATED SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO REVISE THE EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL. HE WAS AGREEABLE TO DOING SO, BUT OPINED THAT ANY NEW OR EXPANDED ELEMENTS THAT MAY GO INTO IT SHOULD FIRST BE CHECKED OUT WITH KING HUSSEIN AND THE SAUDIS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT UNLESS HUSSEIN AND THE SAUDIS AGREE IN ADVANCE, THEY MIGHT REJECT SUCH A DOCUMENT WHEN THE ISRAELIS MAKE IT PUBLIC. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL DO SO. HE TALKED ABOUT MAKING A TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN ABOUT THIS MATTER, BUT HE SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US A REVISED COUNTERPROPOSAL "IN NEXT FEW DAYS." HE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH SADAT AGAIN ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.

5. KAMEL PRESSED TO BE SURE THAT WE HAVE NOT ALREADY GIVEN THE ISRAELIS THE MAY 17 COUNTERPROPOSAL. IF WE HAD, HE
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WAS AFRAID THAT THE ISRAELIS MIGHT SEIZE UPON ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE MADE IN THE REVISED VERSION. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE HAVE NOT GIVEN THE ISRAELIS THE MAY 17 DOCUMENT AND DO NOT INTEND TO DO SO.

6. HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER TRANSMISSION TO ISRAEL OF REVISED EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL WILL LIKEWISE DEPEND UPON POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSES TO THE TWO QUESTIONS WE HAD PUT. I TOLD HIM WE VIEW THESE AS A SEPARATE, PARALLEL TRANSACTION AND, AS HE KNEW, HAVE LONG URGED GOE TO SUBMIT ITS OWN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL SO THAT THERE IS ANOTHER NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT ON THE TABLE. WE WILL, OF COURSE, WISH TO BE GUIDED BY GOE ON TIMING OF TRANSMITTAL OF GOE COUNTERPROPOSAL TO ISRAELIS, BUT BELIEVE THAT THE SOONER THIS IS DONE THE BETTER.

7. COMMENT: KAMEL REMAINS VERY EDGY ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR, BUT SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN REASONABLY FIRM INSTRUCTIONS FROM SADAT TO PROCEED ALONG THE ABOVE LINES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, WEST BANK, GAZA, MEETINGS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 6-13-78
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO14943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850071-1576
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780667/aaaacfib.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 136c498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 CAIRO 14781, 78 CAIRO 14751
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2379632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL, JUNE 13
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, EG, IS, US, (KAMEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/136c498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014